

ARKWOOD, INC.  
Omaha, Arkansas

Conditions at listing (September 1985): The Arkwood, Inc., Site covers approximately 20 acres on the Missouri-Pacific's Cricket Railroad siding, south of Omaha in Boone County, Arkansas. The site consists of a millwork shop, a wood-treating plant which used pentachlorophenol (PCP) and creosote, and a storage yard for the treated wood products before sale. Arkwood started operations at the site in the early 1960s. In 1973, the owner of Arkwood leased the process and land to Mass Merchandisers, Inc., of Harrison, Arkansas. Mass Merchandisers' lease expired on Jan. 1, 1985, and was not renewed. The plant has not operated since then.

According to Mass Merchandisers, wastes from the wood-treating operation were dumped into a cave at the treating plant from the beginning of the operation to around 1970. The entrance to the cave, which is at ground level, has been boarded and covered with a layer of dirt. Waste oils were also placed in a ditch adjacent to the railroad until approximately 1974, when the cost of the chemicals used in the treatment process forced the use of a recovery system and reduced the volume of wastes generated.

Other wastes consist in part of the liquid from washing of the treatment room floor and the treatment equipment. These wastes accumulated in a tank and were then spread over the storage yard to control dust. Based on plant operations during 1970, a minimum of 6,000 to 7,000 pounds per year of waste were generated over the more than 20 years of operation, according to Mass Merchandisers. There is also a large pile of sawdust and woodchips located in the southeast portion of the site. Samples indicated that at least a portion of this pile is contaminated with PCP.

The State has detected PCP in local water wells, natural springs in the area, and nearby Walnut Creek. In 1982, Mass Merchandisers drilled a replacement well for a nearby resident, and retained a consulting firm to conduct a geohydrological study in the area. Approximately 660 persons depend on private wells within 3 miles of the site for drinking water.

Status (September 1986): An Administrative Order on Consent was signed in May of 1986 ordering Mass Merchandisers to conduct and RI/FS. A draft workplan was submitted in July, 1986, and is currently under revision. In August, 1986, the State of Arkansas filed suit against the potentially responsible parties for the investigation and remediation of the site.

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